

From: [Eoc, Epahq](#)
To: [Acting Administrator](#); [Mccarthy, Gina](#); [Stanislaus, Mathy](#); [Feldt, Lisa](#); [Breen, Barry](#); [Reynolds, Thomas](#); [Rivas-Vazquez, Victoria](#); [Johnson, Alisha](#); [KeyesFleming, Gwen](#); [Coleman, Sam](#); [Stanton, Larry](#); [Tulis, Dana](#); [Gray, David](#); [Edlund, Carl](#); [Phillips, Pam](#); [Curry, Ron](#); [Broyles, Ragan](#); [Matthiessen, Craig](#); [McQuiddy, David](#); [Irizarry, Gilberto](#)
Subject: Special Situation Report Update #1: Williams Olefins Plant Explosion, Geismar, Ascension Parish, LA
Date: Friday, June 14, 2013 11:15:00 AM
Attachments: [Williams Olefins Update 6.14.2013.pdf](#)
[Special Situation Report Update1 William Olefins Fire 6.14.13.docx](#)



UNCLASSIFIED//FOR INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION ONLY

Special Situation Report: Update #1

Williams Olefins Plant Explosion, Geismar, Ascension Parish, LA

**US Environmental Protection Agency
6/14/13**

Report as of 1100 hours,

Situation Overview:

- At approximately 0830 hrs on June 13, 2013, there was a fire and explosion in the Williams Olefins chemical plant in Geismar, LA. After the explosion, the plant continued to burn for several hours. The fire was extinguished by early afternoon; however, material in the process piping continued to vent to one of the plant flares due to impartial combustion of the material.
- The facility reported one fatality and more than 70 injuries due to the explosion and subsequent fire.
- Initial shelter-in-place orders were lifted by 1800 hours.
- The cause of the initial fire is still under investigation.

State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions:

- Local fire and hazmat teams, Louisiana State Police (LSP), and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) are on-scene. LSP will likely

demobilize from the site on the afternoon of 6/14/13.

EPA Actions:

- EPA has deployed an OSC and START contractors to the scene. START contractors assisted LDEQ with conducting offsite air monitoring and sampling during the afterhours period. Preliminary air monitoring and air sampling data from LDEQ indicate low levels that do not represent any concern.
- The R6 REOC continues to coordinate with LDEQ. Post emergency response phase, EPA will continue to coordinate with the State on air and water monitoring runoff activities to determine any additional response actions that the facility, State, or EPA may need to take. LDEQ is expected to oversee any subsequent long-term cleanup operations at the facility.
- The facility is required to prepare a Risk Management Plan (RMP). It is considered to be high risk facility based on the amount of regulated substances on site in quantities above a threshold amount. The facility is also subject to EPCRA Tier II reporting requirements and must submit information to the state, local emergency planning committee (LEPC) and fire department.
- Within the next 2-4 weeks, post-response and when the facility is in a recovery stage, a team of RMP inspectors will conduct a root cause/after action facility inspection. Current Regional staff are expected to comprise the inspection team. (See attachment)

Media Interest: High

The HQ EOC will continue to coordinate with the R6 REOC and provide additional updates as appropriate.

Watch Officer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Headquarters Emergency Operations Center
1200 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, DC 20004
202-564-3850 202-564-8729 (fax)

<mailto:eoc.epahq@epa.gov>